

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1142

By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte on her receipt of the National Crime Victim Service Award.

WHEREAS, this body takes great pride in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments and achievements of those individuals who work to improve the quality of life of their fellow Tennesseans and who have justifiably received national acclaim for their exemplary endeavors; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte who, on April 11, 2008, was presented the National Crime Victim Service Award by U.S. Attorney General Michael Mukasey in Washington, D.C. for her extraordinary efforts in direct service to crime victims; and

WHEREAS, a former victim of violent crime, First Lady Conte escaped from a kidnapper in Nashville in 1988 after he forced her into his car. She suffered several injuries, including a broken cheekbone and hand, during the ordeal; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Andrea Conte founded a nonprofit organization called You Have the Power to raise awareness about crime and justice issues; the organization conducts numerous public programs across Tennessee and has produced documentary videos and resource guidebooks on topics such as elder abuse, domestic violence, and child sexual abuse, which have been distributed nationwide to law enforcement agencies, schools, civic groups and therapists; and

WHEREAS, now in her capacity as First Lady of Tennessee, Andrea Conte has worked tirelessly to help in the establishment of a Child Advocacy Center in each of the 31 judicial districts across Tennessee and the creation of a state-wide Commission on Crime Victims

Assistance to provide recommendations and advice on issues associated with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, First Lady Conte launched an annual walk across the state to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and raise funds in support of child advocacy efforts; her first AndreaWalks event raised over one million dollars as she covered more than 600 miles; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Conte also helped establish "A Tennessee Season to Remember," an annual memorial event honoring Tennesseans who lost their lives to violent crime that also aids families in healing and finding fellowship as they come together in remembrance of their lost loved ones. Held each December, the Governor and First Lady greet family members as they hang ornaments on memorial wreaths displayed at the Capitol throughout the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, a native of Massachusetts, Andrea Conte attended public schools and earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Washington at Seattle, and a Master of Business Administration from Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Andrea Conte's exceptional service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee has been acknowledged by her alma mater, Tennessee State University, as they presented her with their distinguished Merit Award for Community Service in 2007; and

WHEREAS, instilled with a sense of duty and service to others, First Lady Conte's early career included working as a registered nurse in Boston and California before she held management posts with Hospital Corporation of America and the accounting firm of Ernst & Whinney and later owned and operated, Conte Phillips, a retail shop and cooking school; and

WHEREAS, Andrea Conte also established the Rosalie Conte Foundation, which grants college scholarships to students pursuing higher education; and

WHEREAS, as April 13-18, 2008, marks National Crime Victims' Rights Week, it is highly appropriate that this body commend Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte's years of dedicated service to the victims of crime and raising public awareness about crime and justice issues in Tennessee and across this great Nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and applaud Tennessee First Lady Andrea Conte upon her receipt of the National Crime Victim Service Award and commend her many laudable efforts as a champion of Victims' Rights and her exemplary service to the citizens of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.